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**Philosophy Essay: Having Young Readers in Mind**

Andy Rooney once said, “[Most of us end up with no more than five or six people who remember us. Teachers have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives.](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/a/andyrooney194052.html)” A literature-rich classroom to me is a classroom filled with different ways to connect with literature; whether that is through the library in the classroom, the posters around the room, the word wall, or even the group read after recess. As long as the students can connect and be involved I know that will make for an enjoyable literature rich classroom.

Quality literature is beneficial to children and their learning. Quality literature can help the students relax after a stressful test or calm down after recess. I can help the children with connecting to real life situations and these happening outside of school. This can help the children cope with what is happening at home with parents and siblings. Quality literature helps students use their imagination; which can help once again cope with issues or help with a follow up assignment on the book.

Some ideas I have to create a literature rich classroom is to have my own reading corner; not only just to read to my students but with my own little library collection of picture books all the way to chapter books for all levels of reading in my classroom. I do not want the children to feel like their only time to find books they enjoy is the thirty minutes a week they have in the school library. I want the students to be able to explore all sorts of books in their own classroom on their own free time. I will love to have a word wall in my class with new words the class learns on a daily basis. Ideally, I will have the students to make the word squares that go up on the wall because it makes it more personal. I will also have connections around the classroom to personal and school experiences and posters. I also believe Advanced Reading is a great way to encourage kids to read what they love and get rewarded doing it. Many children enjoy Advanced Reading and the testing that goes along with it. It helps them connect and reflect on their reading experience. I will also have something like “Reader of the Week” and the student can bring in their favorite book and a poster about the book and tell the class why they love to read. This will encourage students to read and learn to love to read. This will also give the other students in the classroom an opportunity to learn about new books they might not have heard of.

Being a literature rich teacher contains four important rules to follow. I need to be clear and concise when reading to the children. Make sure my speed is appropriate when reading out loud and my voice doesn’t stay monotone, I need to keep the children engaged and interested in the book; and do that by using voices for the characters. I also need to stay organized and committed. Make sure I have read the book and know what I am doing with the literature before I bring it to the classroom. And last but not least, I must make sure it is grade level appropriate. Nothing is worse than bringing in a book that is to boring for the higher grade levels or something to mature for the little ones. It’s all about the preplan. Having a literature rich classroom is really important to me and I plan on making that a reality for my students.

So in conclusion I know that my classroom will be a useful tool and learning stage for my students when it comes to reading and advancing in their literature. I will be there for them on their journey through their first year of school, and I will make sure that I instill how fun and important reading is through their journey through school. I will make reading fun and enjoyable with fun reader’s response activities. I cannot wait to be a literature rich teacher my students will enjoy!